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## MIDWAY MEMORIES... YOUTH, FAMILY REUNITE AT ANNUAL BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR

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PHOTO OF LILY MORSE WITH TILLA BY FRANCESCA SAGALA



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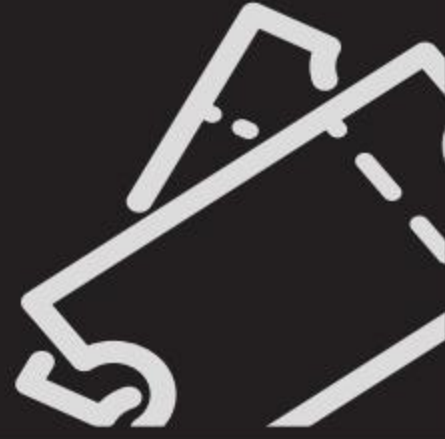
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# New Buffalo Township Board approves preliminary approval of marihuana establishments

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

**M**embers of the New Buffalo Township Board approved preliminary approval of several adult use marihuana retail establishments at their Monday, Aug. 21, meeting.

Board members approved the preliminary approvals based on the Findings of Fact obtained by the Planning Commission at their public hearing held July 18.

The following establishments were given preliminary approval: Jars Holdings LLC to operate an Adult-Use Marihuana Retail Establishment at 19799 US 12 with the condition that a parking variance be obtained through the Zoning Board of Appeals; Casey Kornoelje to operate an Adult-Use Marihuana Retail Establishment at 19267 US 12 and portions of 13713 El Dorado, portions of 19251 US 12; El Dorado LLC to operate an Adult-Use Marihuana Retail Establishment at 19281 US 12, 19285 US 12, 19291 US 12 and 13700 El Dorado with condition that a parking variance be obtained through the Zoning Board of Appeals; Jars Holdings LLC to operate an Adult-Use Marihuana Retail Establishment at 19650 M239 with condition that a parking variance be obtained

through the Zoning Board of Appeals; Covington Plaza Investors LLC to operate an Adult-Use Marihuana Retail Establishment at 10168 US 12 with condition that a minimum setback waiver be obtained (the waiver has been received and recorded with the Berrien County Register of Deed Office); CSAB Green LLC to operate an Adult-Use Marihuana Retail Establishment at 19253 M239 with condition that a parking variance be obtained through the Zoning Board of Appeals and Simple AG New Buffalo LLC to operate an Adult-Use Marihuana Retail Establishment and Processor at 13992 Grand Avenue.

Board members approved rezoning the portion of land, 20 feet in width, located between U.S. 12 Highway and Amtrak located at 10299 US 12 from AG-R to C-2 in order to be consistent with the zoning of surrounding properties which will correct n oversight when the zoning map was adopted.

New Buffalo Township Supervisor Michelle Heit said the land doesn't show up as a different color in the zoning map and that the intent was that the whole stretch would allow for marihuana establishments.

She said that they've worked

with the township attorney to rectify it and it was "not the intent to have a little strip of AG-R in this C-2 area."

"It makes sense for the large part of the parcel to be AG-R but this little strip to be right by the highway - it would make sense to rezone that little portion," she said, adding that it's "not build able."

Representing Tony and Izabel Olson, who own the parcel that includes that strip of land, Daniel Hatch of Butzel Long said that it's bordered by two properties that want to construct marihuana establishments there. Per the township's marihuana ordinance, marihuana establishments can't abut to an AG property "which that sliver of land is."

**H**e added that the township "does not have the authority under zoning powers under the Michigan Enabling Act to split zone."

An outdoor assembly permit application for Seedz brewery for Oct. 7 was approved.

An increase in the Land Division/Property Line Adjustment Application to \$200 was approved.

Board members adopted a resolution regarding nine days of early voting, which was passed per Proposal 2 last

November..

Clerk Judy Zabicki said that one of the options involves working with the county and that the proposal now stands that the county will divide it in half with regards to where residents can vote early: the northern half can vote at either the health department on Napier Road or Lake Michigan College and the southern half may possibly vote at the AEP building on Red Bud Trail, which the county is purchasing.

Zabicki said that she believes Sept. 5 is when contracts need to be in place.

Board members approved an ordinance adopting the certification and revision of the ordinances of the township.

Heit said a meeting was held with regards to the potential Exit 4 Water & Sewer Special Assessment District and that Exit Four "is quite far along," with a petition put together by the township's bonding attorney that was circulating revealing 91% of homeowners there are in favor of the district. She added that they'd like to talk with the one homeowner who wasn't in favor of it before moving forward. The next step would be to pass a resolution to approve the project.

*In the future, everybody will be anonymous for 15 minutes.*  
— Banksy



Local  
Government  
Meetings

New Buffalo Times

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VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD

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HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN,  
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MICHIANA

VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL  
Meets on the 2nd Friday  
of each month at 1PM

# Grand Beach Village Council approves proposal to design new golf course irrigation system

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the Grand Beach Village Council approved a proposal in the amount of \$3,000 from Automatic Supply to design a new irrigation system for the Grand Beach golf course and to also provide consulting services during construction of it at their Wednesday, Aug. 16, meeting.

Clay Putnam of Serviscape said that there’s been talks for many years on replacing the irrigation system and that they’ve been “shooting from the hip as far as trying to determine what costs are going to be” for the project.

A proposal was received from the Indianapolis-based Automatic Supply, which will visit the golf course and then supply the design based off their findings. Councilmember and pro shop commissioner Blake O’Halloran said that studies have been done on the irrigation system, and that Peerless Pump has given them some options on secondary water options for the golf course. He added that this is part of replacing the whole irrigation system.

“This is the first step to actually doing something about it,” he said.

Putnam added that Automatic Supply will be having conversations with them to “create a design that’s not only beneficial for the golf course, but effective.”

Councilmembers also approved Lindahl Marine inspecting the pipe at the pump house at the lake and giving the results to the village for a cost of \$5,150.

Putnam said the pump is no longer able to push water from the lake up to the holding tank. Peerless Midwest inspected the pump and their opinion is that the village is introducing sand and gravel into the intake line of the pump, which has caused “premature wear” to the pump’s impeller. This causes pressure reduction, which doesn’t allow enough pressure to push water up to the holding tank to supply water to the golf course.

Putnam said they received a proposal from Lindahl for divers to go out into the lake and inspect the intake line “to the extent as possible” as a portion of the line is underneath the bed of the lake, to try to identify where the sand and gravel is entering the intake line. Once it can be indentified, a solution can be determined.

He added that Peerless supplied the village with three estimates: one being to replace the pump entirely, the second being to replace multiple components within the pump and the third to replace fewer components within the pump.

Council president Harry Walder said that there’s a village water main that was installed in the 1960s at a home at the end of Walnut Avenue and that their attorney is verifying if the village has an easement there, although she believes there isn’t. When the homeowners built their house and dug for their driveway down to their garage, which is below grade, it ended up that their retaining wall is on top of the water main. He added that the water main no longer has four feet of coverage for frost, so it’ll have to be relocated. Rob Andrew of Meritt Engineering said the main shouldn’t be abandoned, as it’s part of the village’s “required loops.” Andrews is currently working on the design, which should come before the council in September, to relocate it.

Walder said the project could cost \$80,000.

Councilmembers approved a proposal from ELD Construction Company to build an ADA compliant beach viewing platform at the Pine Avenue beach access at a cost of \$33,288 and not exceeding \$5,000 for any type of ramp and to make sure that the platform is down further than people can see from the street.

Councilmembers approved leasing two new golf carts beginning next year, with the cost being \$650 per cart.

At the last meeting, councilmembers

had discussed the possibility of coordinating with New Buffalo Township Library on moving the village’s historical publications, pictures and other memorabilia to the library.

Councilmembers agreed that Meg Piper should spearhead the process. During public comment and through a letter, Piper said that the village should delay the process until it has a complete inventory of all the material and that she has past experience in library science and computer technology skills, and has networked with a variety of people through her 25 years in the Social Club.

Councilmembers approved to increase wages for the following employees: \$5 an hour for Mary Robertson, \$3 an hour for Dale Powell, \$2 an hour for Keith Kehoe, \$2 an hour for Jayson Powell, \$2 an hour for Creo Brewster and to increase Bob Dabbs’ salary by \$5,000 annually.

Councilmembers approved a one-week paid vacation for Deputy Clerk Kimberly Wolnik in her first year of employment.

Due to Laurie Roche and Robert Kegan, whose terms on the Planning Commission end on August 31, not applying to be reappointed, councilmembers approved appointing Ross Kerr and Ed Sebastian to the Planning Commission for a three-year term ending Aug. 31, 2026.

Councilmembers approved appointing Walder as the ex-officio member of the Planning Commission with a term ending Aug. 31, 2024.

Walder said he’s giving certificates of appreciation for Roche for her years of service to the village, which includes serving on the Planning Commission since 2012, being chairperson and being an integral part of the village’s short term rental ordinance, and to Kegan, who’s served on the Planning Commission since 2020 and also played a role in the ordinance’s development.

*It’s scoring goals that’s great, whether against Brazil or anybody else.*  
— Lionel Messi



# City council moves to split Parks and Harbor Commission

BY THERESE DONNELLY

Citing lack of progress, the New Buffalo City Council moved towards dissolving the Parks and Harbor Commission in order to create two separate entities.

No formal action was taken at the Monday, Aug. 21 meeting, though there are plans to vote on the matter at the September regular meeting.

City Manager Darwin Watson said the council will need to pass a new ordinance to rescind the current ordinance establishing the Commission. He said if the Commission is replaced with ad hoc committees, there is no need to codify the new groups.

Mayor John Humphrey said there should be a workshop to consider what public boards and advisory committees the city should have, and what direction the city will take for parks and harbor projects.

He added that the dredging fund is managed by the city manager and will not be affected by changes to the Harbor Commission.

Following up on a discussion from a previous meeting, the council approved a motion to vacate a portion of a platted portion of East Detroit Street in order to allow New Buffalo Township to establish a veteran's memorial park on the site. The motion includes a 20-foot easement to allow the city access to run utilities to any future development.

Humphrey said the property in question is landlocked, making it unusable.

As part of a settlement, the city purchased a privately owned boat slip in South Cove Condominiums. Since then, sediment has again accumulated in the slip. Humphrey said the sediment, an estimated 500 cubic yards, was from

the Mayhew Street drain. The council approved a bid from Merrell Brothers in the amount of \$58,900 for dredging at the slip.

The council also approved Abonmarche's bid of \$8500 for construction administration connected to the dredging project.

Watson told the council that both the dredging and the administration were anticipated and included in the city budget.

Once sediment has been dredged, Versaw Earthworks will transport the spoils to the city's public works garage to dry out before hauling it away. The council approved the company's \$6850 bid on the work.

An accident in May 2023 destroyed a light pole in the public beach parking lot. At the August meeting, the council approved an expenditure of \$12,200 for Electrical Maintenance and Construction to provide and install a new pole. Watson said the city has filed an insurance claim on the damage.

In order to lower administrative costs, the council agreed to explore two agreements that would pool municipal resources.

The council passed a resolution supporting the Regionalized Public Safety Exploration to study the possible benefits of municipalities combining police and fire services. Watson noted many municipalities are struggling with workforce shortages and increasing costs.

Police chief Rich Killips told the council that Chikaming Township and

the Village of Three Oaks are currently having trouble hiring enough staff. While New Buffalo does not currently have that issue, he said, it could in the future.

"Sooner or later, it will become our problem," Killips told the council.

In 2022, Michigan voters approved an amendment giving residents the right to vote early in-person for statewide and federal elections starting with the 2024 presidential election.

Municipalities will offer polling sites for nine days prior to the election day.

**In 2022, Michigan voters approved an amendment giving residents the right to vote early in-person for statewide and federal elections starting with the 2024 presidential election. Municipalities will offer polling sites for nine days prior to the election day.**

Humphrey said the amendment was directed towards larger metropolitan areas, but did not address the burden on smaller municipalities to staff

such polls.

Instead, municipalities may choose to hold independent polling stations, join with other municipalities, or contract with the county clerk's office.

City clerk Amy Fidler told the council she had only recently learned of the county's proposal, but she was in favor of it.

The council tabled a decision on awarding a \$11,500 contract to Hostetler Lawn & Landscaping for work on the ball fields at Oselka Park. Councilmember Brian Flanagan asked if the work should fall under the Parks Department, but Humphrey explained the contract was for electrical work. Watson added the contract also includes the removal of grass from the infields,

to lessen the chance of a bouncing ball striking a fielder.

The council authorized Watson and city treasurer Kathie Butler to act as authorized signers on the city's behalf for Municipal Employees Retirement System, which administers the city pension plan.

Henrich Services will install a new dump box and perform repairs on the Street Department's 2011 International Dump Truck for a total of \$15,131.02. Watson said funding was available in the 2023-2024 budget.

The council approved applications for two special events.

New Buffalo Business Association will host its annual Harvest and Wine Festival Oct. 7. NBBA President Ben Smock told the council the festival will be in the same footprint as last year, on Whittaker Street and the farmers market lot on the corner of Whittaker and Merchant streets.

Wave 100 Regatta is scheduled for Aug. 14 and 15, 2024. Organizer John Nekus said approximately 50 one-person boats will start in South Haven and travel south to Michigan City, with stops in St. Joseph and New Buffalo.

The regatta requested permission to use Lions Park Pavilion, the boat launch parking lot and the city beach. Nekus said with staff and race supporters, he expected 200 people.

He told the council the event is run by national and international regatta organizers and aims to highlight an outdoor activity for young people and families.

Before the council adjourned, Watson told everyone there will be a drive through flu shot clinic at the city fire department, 35 N. Harrison Street, Sept. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



# Low-income housing approved over objections from neighborhood

BY STAN MADDUX

**P**lans for low-income housing for the homeless were approved by the La Porte City Council Monday, Aug. 21.

Housing Opportunities, a not-for-profit group with similar housing in La Porte, Michigan City,

Valparaiso and Portage, will create 16 units inside the old Coca Cola bottling plant in the 200 block of Rumely Street.

There will be in house services available to residents with medical, physical, mental health and substance abuse issues.

Rent will be based on 30% of a resident's income.

La Porte resident and former city councilperson Renee Scherer is against the plans.

During the meeting, she talked about an encounter she had in downtown Michigan City with two men from a nearby homeless shelter.

Scherer doesn't want that kind of behavior coming here.

"I had two guys, homeless, follow me. They said, 'Hey, baby. You're fine looking. I'd like to be your daddy.' They just make rude comments. I had to go into a shop to get away from them. Just think what they would say to a child," she said.

Many of the residents feel betrayed by their elected officials.

Tammy Lawrence said she will consider challenging the decision.

"I will continue my effort until the key goes into the lock. I don't know what else to say except I'm feeling a little defeated," she said.

Ron Clark and his wife, Margaret, have lived in that neighborhood for 40 years and have invested significantly into their home only to fear the value of their property will now go down.

Mr. Clark called the decision a slap in the face, claiming decision makers wouldn't want such housing in their neighborhoods.

"They'd be fighting it just like we are," he said.

Julie West is their city council person, who described going back and forth on her decision before voting to support it.

She said her decision was based on the greater good of the community.



"This is not easy. I'll probably go home tonight and not sleep very well because I know there's going to be some people that will be upset with my vote as well. But, I do feel that I need to vote for what's best for our community," West said.

Officials pointed out Housing

Opportunities will screen all applicants and not allow anyone with a history of violent crimes against people or sex offenders.

Mayor Tom Dermody said Housing Opportunities has a solid reputation for providing quality housing without much impact on crime.

**H**e said the plans will help ease demand for affordable housing locally.

"It's going to be a fantastic addition. People are going to be safe. I understand the concerns and we're going to make sure everything moves smoothly," Dermody said.

Housing Opportunities will convert the structure into housing with a \$7.5 million state grant.

Jordan Stanfill, CEO of the organization, said people must be homeless and have some sort of disability or substance abuse issue to qualify.

He said the facility could be open within 18 to 24 months.

Stanfill said almost every resident at other facilities has moved on to own or rent their next home or move in with family members because of affordability and help that's available to correct issues that led them into homelessness.

## HIKERS TO EXPLORE TRAILS OF FERNWOOD NATURE PRESERVE

**T**he Harbor Country Hikers will walk the trails of Fernwood's nature preserve in Niles, Michigan, at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2.

The preserve is both strikingly beautiful and unusually diverse. A 125-foot drop in elevation, from the gardens to the St. Joseph River, creates several natural communities, including dry and wet forests, young second-growth woods, streams and ponds and a reconstructed tallgrass prairie.

The hike will be led by Michelle McCoskey, Fernwood's director of education. Though membership in the Hikers is preferred, this hike is open to all. Attendees are advised to wear long pants (preferably tucked in), a sun hat or cap, sturdy shoes or boots and insect repellent, and to bring plenty of water.

The Fernwood hike is rated moderately physically difficult for some short climbs. Driving directions to Fernwood and additional information about this event are available at the Hikers' website, [www.harborcountryhikers.com](http://www.harborcountryhikers.com), and its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS



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# Michigan School Meals Program at New Buffalo Area Schools

The Michigan School Meals program was signed into law in the fiscal year 2024 Michigan State School Aid Budget. The funding allows for all public school students, grades pre-K to 12, to eat breakfast and lunch for free.

New Buffalo Area Schools encourages all families to complete the Summer EBT and Education Benefits Application by visiting [www.newbuffalo.familyportal.cloud](http://www.newbuffalo.familyportal.cloud).

The Summer EBT and Education Benefits Application determines eligibility of a student or household. The total count of eligible students in the district is used to determine the funding amounts that will be made available to a school. Without this information, our district could lose important state funding for educational programs that our students are entitled to.

The information collected from the application is used to provide additional services and benefits beyond just school meals, like resources for classrooms, teachers, and children, guidance and college counselors, and health and wellness services.

For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/mde/services/food/michigan-school-meals](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/food/michigan-school-meals).

Please contact the NBAS Food Service Department at 269-469-6048 for questions or assistance.

— STAFF REPORTS

# SPORTS

## From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



The air conditioner in my car decided to stop working today, so when I got home and began thinking about what direction to take the column, I decided to talk about fans.

No silly, not the kind that keep you cool but the kind that root for their favorite teams.

Over the years, fans have been credited, and blamed, for their team's success or failure. As anyone who reads this column knows, I'm a big fan of all teams in Chicago. The Cubs (and to a lesser degree, the White Sox), Bears, Bulls, and Blackhawks have me rooting for them no matter where they are in the standings.

Sometimes it's difficult to keep cheering for a team when they're struggling, but when they're doing well, fans almost feel like they're part of the team.

A couple of interesting stories about fans have come to my attention this baseball season.

The first happened in Philadelphia where fans have traditionally been very tough on their teams. Philly fans are well known for doing such things as throwing snowballs at Santa Claus. This year, they decided to flip the script. Trea Turner, a free agent acquisition who was expected to be a great player for the Phillies, was severely underperforming.

When the team returned home from a road trip, it seemed certain that the fans would boo him unmercifully. I'm not sure if it was spontaneous or planned, but instead of booing Trea, they gave him an ovation. The unexpected positivity inspired Turner and he proceeded to have a great game and his play has improved substantially since that day.

I hope all fans eventually hear about this and

realize that players who are cheered in their home city outperform those who are booed.

Being a Cub fan almost automatically makes me a St. Louis Cardinal hater. I particularly dislike the attitude of the fans, front office, announcers and players. They all seem to think they're the most knowledgeable, loyal, perfect everything when it comes to baseball.

The team has had a lot of success, and I believe it's easier to be a good fan when your team is winning. The team had a great leader, catcher Yadier Molina, who retired before the season began. Thinking they were so smart, they signed ex Cub Wilson Contreras to replace Molina. When the season began, the Cardinals were expected to easily win their division.

Well, the team missed Molina more than they expected. Early in the season some pitchers complained about Contreras and the manager panicked. He temporarily moved Contreras to other positions before realizing it really wasn't his fault.

The team fell to the bottom of the standings, and has been at or near the bottom of the division since. I saw a photo of the stands Sunday against the Mets and was delighted to see that most of the seats were empty. Smart and loyal fans? Phooey!

Michael Clark Duncan said, "I'm the biggest sports fan there is, I love sports, but I'm still convinced that it's teachers who deserve the big salaries, not athletes."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

*It's embarrassing that after 45 years of research and study, the best advice I can give to people is to be a little kinder to each other.*  
— Aldous Huxley



# Hypertufa class to be held at Friendship Botanic Gardens

**F**riendship Botanic Gardens is offering a Hypertufa trough class from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 9, under the Education Pavilion.

Hypertufa is a form of making a trough garden to display tiny horticultural treasures, and they are very popular to display dwarf conifers, alpines, and miniature succulents.

Hypertufas are lightweight concrete and can be kept outside over the winter.

Come learn how to build a permeable container for miniature gardens. Fill your hypertufa with mini-evergreens or succulents and take your creation home.

Bring a container for your project, such as a cardboard box (not too big), a plastic dishpan or we can provide a container.

**T**he cost for the class for members is \$35. Non-members \$40. This covers the cost of all materials. Advanced ticket purchase is strongly recommended, as space is limited. Tickets are available for purchase on [www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org](http://www.friendshipbotanicgardens.org) or

Eventbrite.

Friendship Botanic Gardens (a volunteer-based, not-for-profit organization) is a community treasure and an oasis of formal gardens and wooded nature trails tucked in an old-growth forest surrounding Trail Creek. The Gardens are located at 2055 East U.S. Highway 12 in Michigan City.

— STAFF REPORTS

## DROWNING? THEN FLIP, FLOAT, AND FOLLOW!



Flip over onto your back and float.

### Float to:

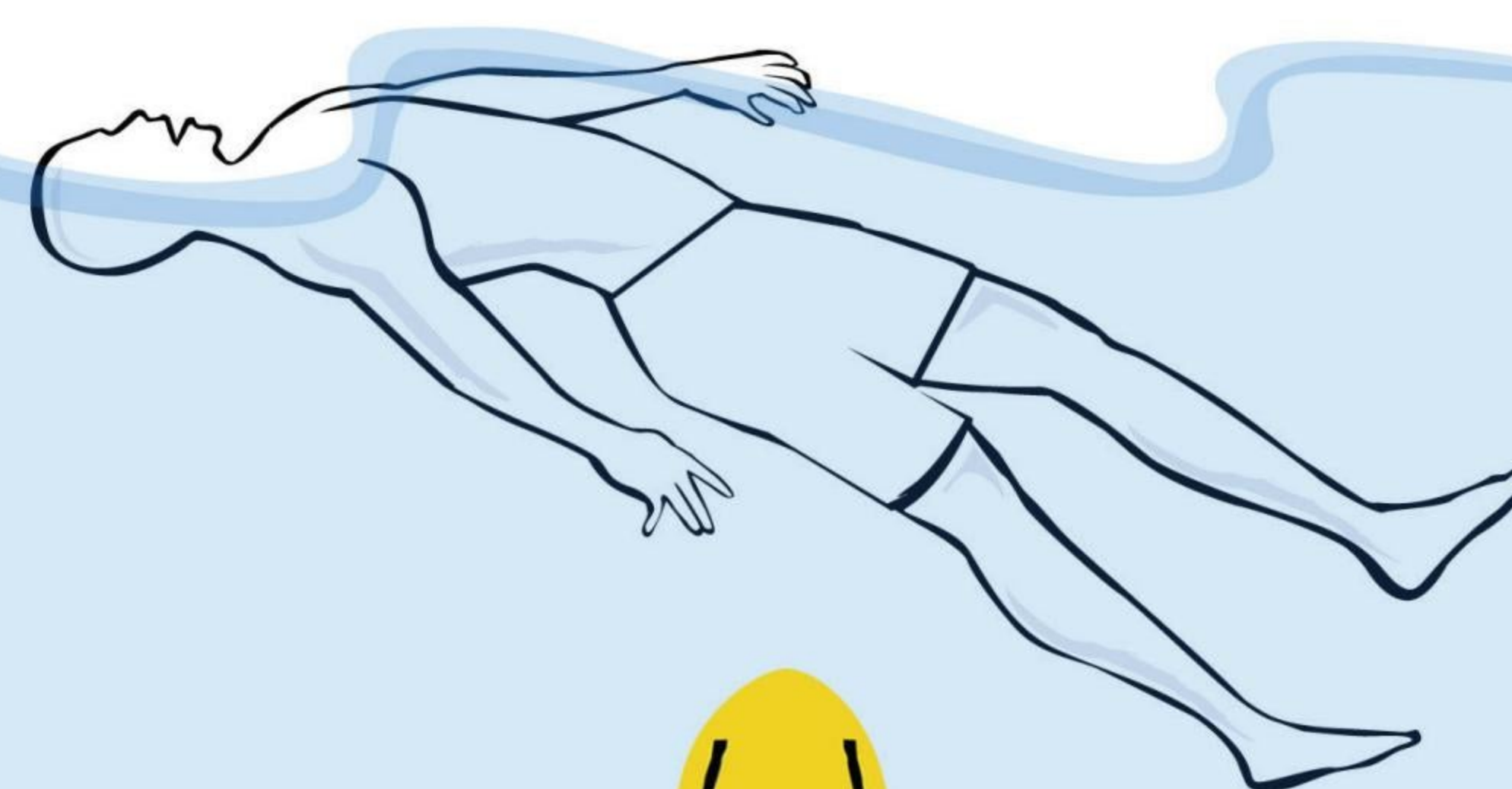
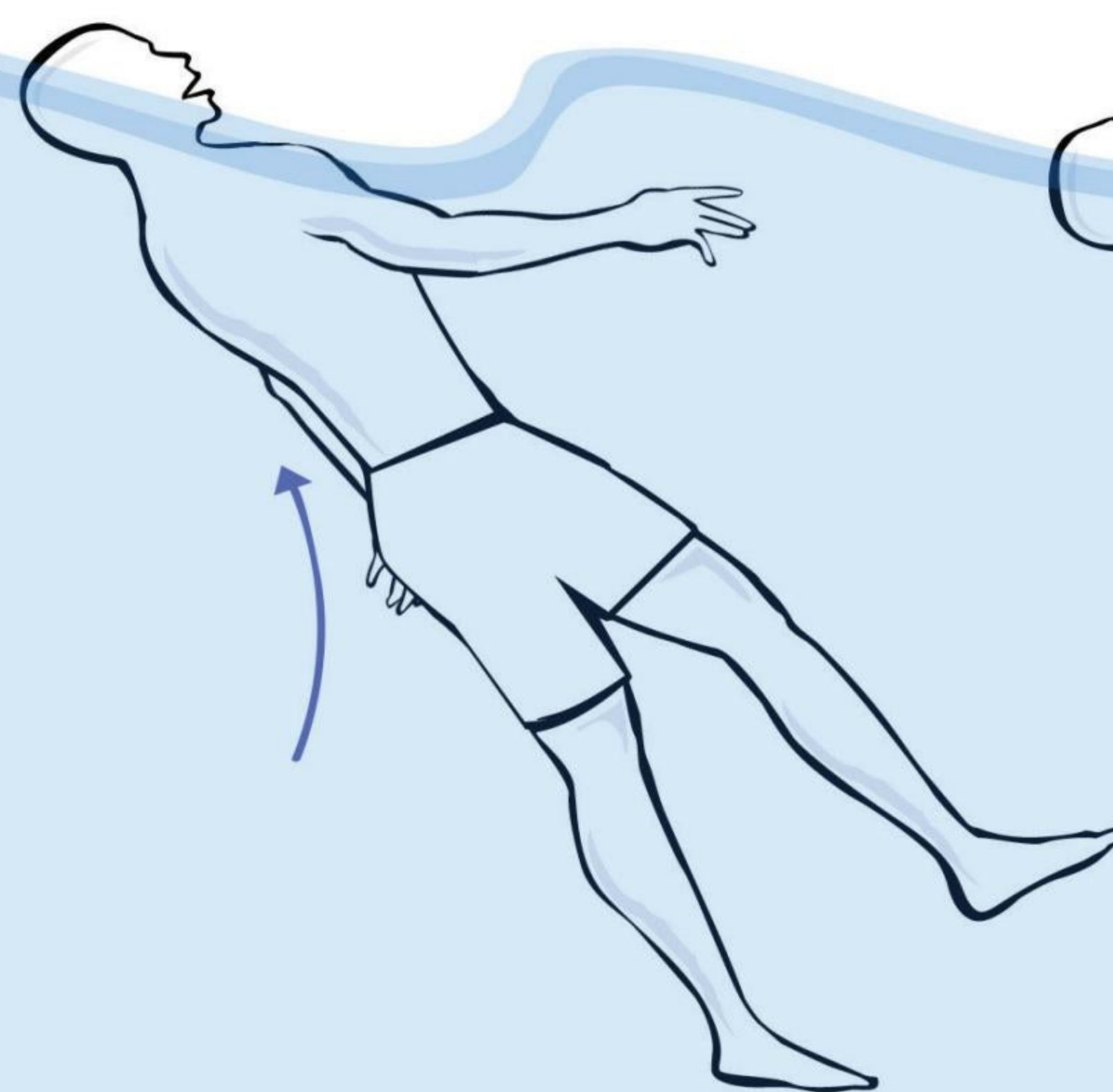
- Keep head above water.
- Calm yourself down from fear and panic; don't panic.
- Conserve your energy.

### Follow the safest course to safety:

- 1 Do not fight the current.
- 2 Follow the current to assess which way it's flowing. Swim perpendicular to the flow.
- 3 Too tired to swim, continue floating and try to signal for help.



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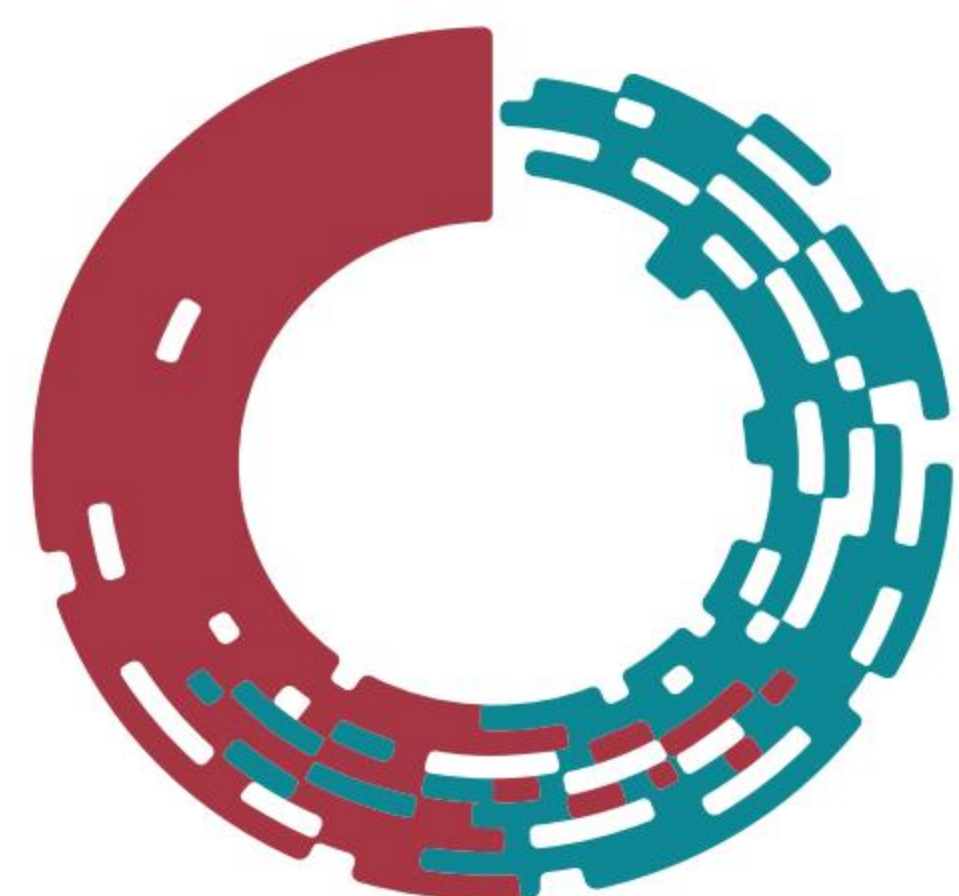


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Allison Kirk poses with Lucy



Baby ducklings follow their mom in the Wonders of Birth exhibit



Mason Ptzke with his horse, Ace



Brian Clint participates in Thursday's youth tractor pull



Good horsemanship was on display at the fair

# Youth, family reunite at annual Berrien County Youth Fair

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

**I**t's all in the family at the Berrien County Youth Fair.

At this year's "Summer Safari"-themed fair, which took place Sunday through Saturday, Aug. 13-19, DJ Freehling and his horse won Grand Champion Senior Showman, Reserve Champion Overall Showman for Showmanship and Reserve Champion Western Halter.

He also won a trophy for Reserve Champion Horsemanship.

Further down on the list of names of winners past that's etched into the trophy is DJ's mom's name.

Gail Freehling, who's also rode horses and competed at the youth fair, said she won the trophy in 1991.

"He's had a couple trophies he's won that have had my name on it," she said.

Gail said that this marks the 11th year for DJ, who's a 16-year-old senior at River Valley High School in Three Oaks, to compete at the fair.

"I'm so proud of him - he's been working really hard on really simple things he needs to change and he's just rocked it out," she said.

During the school year, he competes in cross country and baseball. Once baseball's over,

it's "horses, horses, horses, horses."

DJ was scheduled to leave the fair Friday to head up to Michigan State University. There, he'll compete at the state 4H horse show. Gail said he's the only person representing Berrien County at the show.

At the three-day show, you're allowed four classes. DJ is doing showmanship, hunt seat pleasure, horsemanship and western pleasure.

"Then we come back and get the motor home Sunday at the fair," Gail said.

Like DJ, Allison Kirk was also showing her horse, Lucy, in the Three Oaks-based River Valley Wranglers stable.

**A** soon to be senior in high school, Allison has a brother, Sebastian, who's one of the swine exhibitors.

Allison said she's had Lucy, who lives with her family's cows, for four years.

"You start showing here when you're 5 and I was riding before that," she said.

It shows: Anyone who was wandering past Lucy's stall that day could see an array of ribbons pinned to it.



Kaeden Lies gets his Champion Tom auctioned off

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15





Brady Krassow tends to his goat, TNF



There were turkeys galore in the poultry exhibit



Emma Totzke hangs out with Lucky



DJ Freehling displays his trophy for Reserve Champion Horsemanship

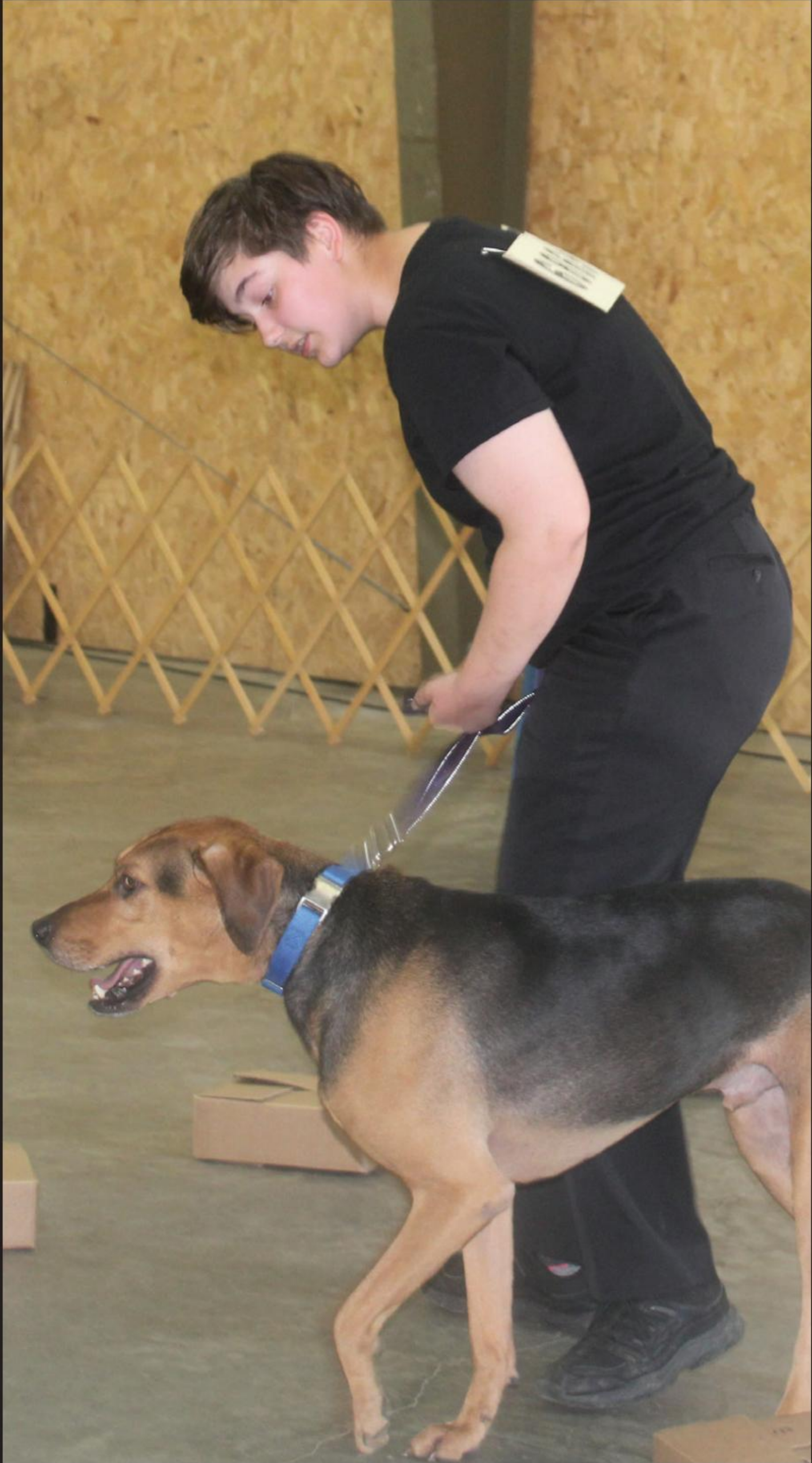




Oakley Beckman makes friends with a goat



The midway at the fair



Darby Oliver shows off Chase during the dog show



Cavan and Cam Johnson show off their chicks in the Wonder of Birth exhibit



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

**A**llison said the biggest award she won this year was the Versatility

scholarship Sunday.

“It’s fun - it’s different than sports,” she said of being a horsewoman.

Lily Morse said she and her cousins were showing horses this year as part of the River Valley Wranglers.

The soon to be senior in high school, who resides in Three Oaks, said she’s been showing her horses for five years. This year, she had entered two horses, while her cousins had a pony and one of their older horses. At home, she said they have about 20 horses.

This week, Morse won Senior English Equitation Champion and first place in almost every class.

While she received her first horse, Tilla, eight or nine years ago, she didn’t show for a long time.

“But now it’s become an interest of mine – so we’ve been working hard,” she said,

Her grandfather was once the world cutting champion, which is what ignited her interest in

horses.

“I like that I can do everything...I can show off every discipline with my horse rather than have a horse who does everything for me - we’re a good team,” she said.

Over by the swine exhibitors’ area was Emma Totzke with her hog, Spunky.

Totzke, who lives in the area but attended New Buffalo High School, said she and her sister are able to compete in the fair despite being independent and not a part of belonging to an 4H clubs.

“That’s one of the things I like about being here so much is that everyone has that opportunity to do their best and show off their hard work,” she said.

**S**he said she’s been showing since she was 5 years old. In four days, she was scheduled to head to Michigan State University, where she’ll be a junior.

“This is what I use to fund my college education and I’ve been really blessed with that, so this is a great opportunity for anyone who’s looking to get into a 4-H or FFH or any county fair,” she said.



Wyatt Baker gets his Grand Champion Market Turkey auctioned off



Emily Gallo competes at Thursday’s tractor pull



It was showtime for those who were exhibiting in the swine department



Nathan Necas gets his Reserve Grand Champion Turkey auctioned off



Good horsemanship was on full display by the stables



# Treasures from under the stands to be unveiled at Region of Three Oaks Museum

Extraordinary artifacts recently returned to Three Oaks from storage under the stands of Spartan Stadium in East Lansing will be displayed for the first time at The Region of Three Oaks Museum on Labor Day weekend.

The artifacts include an elegant horse-drawn hearse used by a Three Oaks mortuary and an elegant Brougham carriage manufactured by Studebaker in South Bend, as well as wood stoves, huge blacksmith's bellows, and a sleigh with red velvet seats.

Visitors will be able to see these pieces in the new artifact storage addition the museum built this summer after a capital campaign raised in excess of \$100,000. Construction of the facility allowed the museum to accept the items the Michigan State Museum had to part with due to space constraints and will provide space for other historic items currently housed in the attic of the Three Oaks Township Library.

The TROTOM Annex Open House is free to the public, as is admission to the museum itself. The Region of Three Oaks Museum is a 501 (c) (3) nonpro=it dedicated to preserving and presenting the history of the area. — **STAFF REPORTS**

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# OBITUARIES



## Kenneth Lee Shelby, Sr. 1929-2023

**K**enneth Lee Shelby, Sr., 94, of New Buffalo, passed away peacefully, Saturday, August 19, 2023, in his home.

His life began January 28, 1929, in Moorhouse, Missouri, the youngest of three children born to Byrd and Pearl Shelby. He married Marianne Woltman May 1, 1954 in New Buffalo, Michigan.

Ken attended and graduated from Westville High School and then honorably served in the U.S. Army, as well as the U.S. Air Force. He served for a total of thirty-seven years including both World War II and the Korean War. He was also in the U.S. Army Reserves and served as an instructor. More recently, Ken was nominated as a Hometown Hero, was part of the New Buffalo Legends, and was chosen to be honored on the Honor Flight, which is a recognition where veterans are flown to Washington D.C. to visit every monument. He was ninety years old at that time and it was their ninetieth flight.

Ken met his wife Marianne one of the times he was at home on leave. They shared a two-year airmail relationship while he served in Okinawa, Japan. They were married May 1, 1954 in St. John United Church of Christ, New Buffalo. Together they had five children.

Ken worked for American Home Foods, the railroad, as an insurance investigator, and started his own business, Shelby and Associates. He served as a constable for the Village of New Buffalo, before it became a town. He also served on the township and city park boards. He was involved in the Boy Scouts for seventy-five years; having served in multiple capacities, from scoutmaster to international representative. Many young men became Eagle Scouts under his guidance. Ken was also a youth representative for both the VFW and American Legion. He was also a lifetime member of

the NRA and a rifle instructor.

He was a longtime member and attended St. John United Church of Christ in New Buffalo, where he was married and served as president, trustee, and on the building/grounds committee. He taught many people about nature and living by the Scout Law. He enjoyed camping; especially at Shelby Dear Forest. He loved hiking and logged thousands of miles, including Mount Fuji in Japan. Ken hosted fifty-two annual canoe races, loved deer hunting and watching, and traveled to all of the fifty states and many countries. He enjoyed watching westerns with his best pal and son-in-law, Chris.

Ken hosted a German exchange student and the two of them formed a lifelong friendship and remained close.

Ken will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by daughters, Dianne Shelby of New Buffalo, Sheri (Craig) Edwards of Union Pier, Kathy (Chris) Dohner of New Buffalo; sons, Kenneth Shelby, Jr. of Bergland, Michael (Patti) Shelby of Three Oaks; close exchange student, Tino Balle; eight grandchildren, Christy Jackson, Jerry Hoadley, Robert Hoadley, Samantha Hoadley, Scott (Stacy Julian) Shelby, Allyson (Jim) Tregillis, Dewey (Beth) Morrison, and Kristen (Kyle) Dohner; twelve great grandchildren; several great great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife; sister, Johnney Mae Nelson; brother, Bill Shelby, daughter-in-law, Roberta Shelby; and his companion, Ellen Spencer.

Family and friends will gather Friday, August 25, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks. A funeral service will be held Saturday, August 26, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in St. John United Church of Christ, 200 West Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, Michigan, with an hour of viewing prior to the service, starting at 10:00 a.m.

Ken will be laid to rest with his beloved wife in Pine Grove Cemetery, New Buffalo, at a later date.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Ken be made to St. John United Church of Christ, 200 West Buffalo Street, New Buffalo, Michigan 49117 or to The Edward C. Sexton American Legion Post #169, 19121 US Highway 12, New Buffalo, Michigan 49117.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online at [www.wagnercares.com](https://www.wagnercares.com).



# HOROSCOPE

AUGUST 24-30, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

**ARIES** MARCH 21—APRIL 19



Good enthusiasm is the key to happiness. It promotes opportunities for open communication with co-workers and loved ones. It is

important to clear the air now and come to a compromise. You have the ability to "sweet talk" aggressive people and calm situations before they get out of hand.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20—MAY 20



This week you will find that you are more respected at work than you had previously thought. This knowledge will give you much

personal strength and promote the ability to stand up for yourself in domestic affairs. It is time to be more assertive with family and create a more secure environment.

**GEMINI** MAY 21—JUNE 21



Conflict with family is likely now. This "battle of wills" is really an opportunity to build trust. Take this time to bring up any long

standing past hurts or issues. Really get it all out in the open. You will be pleasantly surprised that your feelings were heard, validated and it's now in resolution

**CANCER** JUNE 22—JULY 22



This will be a very eventful week filled with many social obligations. People will be very receptive and friendly now. Use this time to

network and promote yourself. You have an uncanny ability to detach just enough to give you a clearer picture on what is going on beneath the surface.

**LEO** JULY 23—AUGUST 22



Material affairs and issues of personal comfort are front and center this week. Your desire for luxury could cause you to make some

extravagant purchases. Take caution, be sure to analyze your budgets and cash-flow before you make any large purchases. Get in touch with what really matters.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22



There is nothing wrong with going solo sometimes. Turning your focus inward is important to finding what you really want out of life. You

cannot live someone else's dreams or fulfill their expectations if they are incongruent with your personal identity. Be true to yourself and no-one else.

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22



It is time to retreat and turn off that competitive drive. You have had some unexpected career dramas that caused much stress.

Recharging your batteries and letting things rest will help you be more mentally productive when the time comes. For now, rest, relax and by all means take a beach day!

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21



You have developed a strong circle of friends and with it a strong sense of belonging. This support structure will prove to be a huge

source of strength over the week. Your career could benefit immensely by the action of a close friend or you may connect more deeply with a co-worker now.

**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21



Time to shine! You stick out of the crowd and have no problem being noticed this week. Use this opportunity to get some of your more

unusual ideas out there. You are an innovative thinker that has the ability to see to the heart of a matter. Build that reputation as a free thinker and get paid.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19



Get out of the routines this week, try to be more spontaneous and don't be afraid to go out on a limb. Use this adventurous spirit

to bring up hard to discuss issues with others and resolve any conflicts. You are going to have an unusual vision that is outside of your normal view of things.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



This is an excellent week to get rid of bad habits and clear out any psychic clutter that inhibits your personal power. You may be

experiencing work conflicts because of boredom or an impatience with the "old way" of doing things. You feel restricted by outdated modes of operation.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20



It will be easier for you to make decisions once you have talked things out with a friend. Utilize your support system. You do not have to

go this alone. It may surprise you to know that other people have had this experience and are more than willing to extend a helping hand. Share the burden.

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## Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

|   |   |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 |   |  | 9 |   |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   |  | 2 | 7 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 6 |  |   |   | 3 |   |   | 2 |
|   | 9 |  |   |   | 8 | 7 | 2 |   |
|   | 5 |  |   |   |   |   | 8 |   |
| 6 |   |  | 1 |   |   |   | 9 | 3 |
|   | 8 |  |   |   |   | 1 |   |   |
|   |   |  |   | 8 |   |   |   |   |
| 3 |   |  |   |   | 2 |   |   |   |

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### ACROSS

- 1 Lou Gehrig's disease (abbr.)  
4 Defensive ditch  
8 Anglo-Saxon letter  
11 Poverty  
13 Kemo \_\_\_\_\_  
14 Hemp shrub  
15 Hillside (Scot.)  
16 Dowdy  
18 Public Roads Admin. (abbr.)  
20 Bits  
21 Transpire  
24 Long ago  
25 Whenever (in prescrip.)  
26 Related by blood  
28 Tidal bore  
32 Period of denial  
34 Measure of quantity (abbr.)  
36 Sediment  
37 Star in Perseus  
39 Council for Econ. Advisors (abbr.)  
41 Nat'l Basketball Assn. (abbr.)  
42 Strike  
44 Gift (Fr.)  
46 Becomes

- 49 Remote  
50 Depots  
53 Son of Loki  
56 California (abbr.)  
57 Crude metals  
58 Young bull: Brit.  
59 School organization (abbr.)  
60 Votes  
61 Environmental Protection Agency (abbr.)

### DOWN

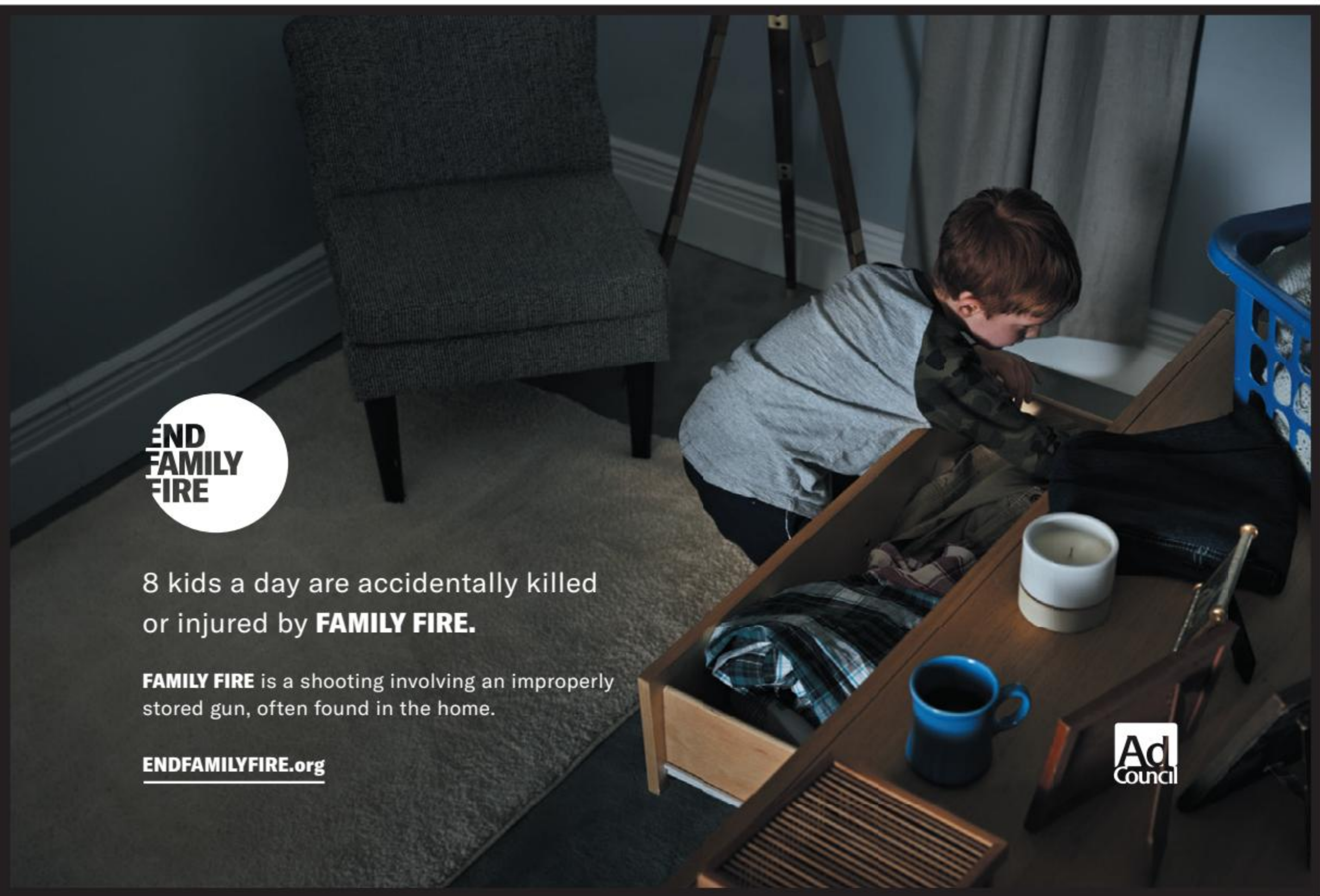
- 1 Air waybill (abbr.)  
2 Malay gibbon  
3 Nibbling  
4 Master of Science in Forestry (abbr.)  
5 Hand propeller  
6 Maltreat  
7 Synagogue  
8 Heroic  
9 Twilight  
10 Exclamations of doubt  
12 Manmade protective mound  
17 Foot lever  
19 Rom. bronze  
21 Haw. dance  
22 Brother of Cain  
23 Var. of Nicholas  
27 Board of War Communications (abbr.)  
29 Produce  
30 Var. of Rebecca  
31 Son of Isaac and Rebekah

- 33 Book of the Apocrypha  
35 Detective  
38 Liquid medicinal preparation  
40 Army Air Forces (abbr.)  
43 Skin disease  
45 In (Fr.)  
46 Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters (abbr.)  
47 State (Fr.)  
48 FDR's dog  
51 Marshal of Napoleon  
52 Selective Service System (abbr.)  
54 Run-of-paper (abbr.)  
55 Estimated time of arrival (abbr.)

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
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| 1  | 2  | 3  |    |    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |    | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11 |    |    | 12 |    | 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    | 17 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 18 |    | 19 |    |    | 20 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 21 | 22 |    |    |    | 23 |    | 24 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 25 |    |    |    | 26 |    | 27 |    | 28 |    | 28 | 30 | 31 |
| 32 |    |    | 33 |    | 34 |    | 35 |    | 36 |    |    |    |
| 37 |    |    |    | 38 |    | 39 |    | 40 |    | 41 |    |    |
|    |    |    |    | 42 |    | 43 |    | 44 |    | 45 |    |    |
| 46 | 47 | 48 |    |    |    |    |    | 49 |    |    |    |    |
| 50 |    |    |    |    |    | 51 | 52 |    | 53 |    | 54 | 55 |
| 56 |    |    |    | 57 |    |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |
| 59 |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |

*Losing is winning. — Dino N. Fatouros*





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# Settlement in termination lawsuit against prosecutor

BY STAN MADDUX

A settlement has been reached in a federal lawsuit alleging wrongful termination by La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan.

According to the lawsuit, Nancy Hawkins and Anthony McClintock accused Fagan of firing them from their jobs at the prosecutor's office for political reasons when he took over in January.

Specifically, both plaintiffs alleged Fagan violated their constitutional right to freedom of speech by letting them go in retaliation for being open supporters of former prosecutor John Lake during the campaign.

McClintock, a retired Michigan City Police officer, also alleged his firing had to do with him finding no evidence of a crime against a man Fagan accused of intimidating him prior to taking office.

McClintock was an investigator for the prosecutor's office under Lake.

To further their political firing claims, the plaintiffs cited an alleged Facebook post by Fagan asserting "some La Porte County Prosecutor's Office employees will quit and some will be fired," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit was settled Aug. 3 at U.S. District Court in Hammond, according to court records.

So far, the amount of the settlement has not been disclosed but will be publicly available once the governor following procedure stamps his seal of final approval.

Lawsuits against county prosecutors in the state are handled by the Indiana Attorney General's Office and any settlements are paid by the state because county prosecutors are employees of the state.

The lawsuit when filed sought no less than \$500,000 for each plaintiff.

Fagan declined an offer for comment.

The agreement follows a recent settlement against former La Porte County Prosecutor John Lake, who was also sued on claims of wrongful termination when he took office in 2019.



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# Father sentenced for autistic daughter’s drowning

BY STAN MADDUX

The father of a young autistic girl who drowned after wandering away from home near Long Beach will not serve time in prison.

Andrew Allen, 35, was ordered to spend two years on probation and perform 100 hours of community service under terms of a plea agreement.

He was sentenced Aug. 10 after the guilty plea negotiated by prosecutors and the defense was accepted by La Porte Superior Court 1 Judge Jamie Oss.

Originally, Allen was facing a potential 20 to 40 year sentence when charged in February with level 1 felony neglect of a dependent causing death.

He was convicted of level 6 felony neglect of a dependent.

In his client’s defense, attorney Jesse Harper said research shows autistic children have a tendency to wander away, especially toward bodies of water, and can be difficult to stop.

Harper also thanked the La Porte County Prosecutor’s Office for taking those findings into account in their plea negotiations.

“I have to give really a lot of credit to them for their recognition to what a tragedy it was and to be willing to be open and receptive to the nature of children on the autism spectrum and, frankly, just how incredibly hard it can be to keep those children who do tend to elope from eloping,” he said.

The girl’s mother, Breanne Smith, 33, is also charged with level 1 felony neglect of a dependent causing death.

Her case has not been decided.

According to court documents, both parents were home when 3-year-old Ivy Allen went out the back door of the family’s residence at 401 Long Beach Cove just north of U.S. 12 near Karwick Road on the eastern fringe of Michigan City in May of last year.

The girl wound up at nearby Lake Clare, where she was found unconscious in the water about 45 minutes after Allen reported his daughter missing.

She was taken to a hospital and later died.

According to court documents, Allen told police he was sleeping when the girl disappeared, while Smith claimed last seeing Ivy in the living room watching TV before going into a bedroom, police said.

Smith said it was about 15 minutes later when she noticed the patio door open, court records disclosed.

Emergency responders were called about three hours after the parents failed in their efforts to locate the girl.

Authorities said there was a history of the girl leaving the home unattended, which drew the attention of the Indiana Department of Child Services.

A few months prior to her death, IDCS gave the parents an alarm system designed to go off when a door opened at their residence.

The alarm was hooked up when the girl walked out.

It didn’t work, though, because the system was not properly installed, police said.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan said the plea agreement was reached because the evidence leans toward the girl’s mother as being more of a factor in the tragic outcome.

He said Allen also helped strengthen the case against Smith by revealing some of the happenings inside the home in the days, weeks and months prior to the girl’s death.

“There’s a lot of elements on the record that were established regarding drug use, timing and responsibility that we felt did not so much point to Mr. Allen,” he said.

In 2016, Smith delivered a baby testing positive for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, according to court documents.

Five years later, police said Smith gave birth to another child testing positive for THC and Subutex.

The baby also exhibited signs of withdrawal from Subutex, which is often used to treat heroin and other forms of opiate dependence, authorities said.

About a month after the drowning, police said Allen tested positive for amphetamines and methamphetamines.

The same drugs, along with THC, were also found in Smith’s bloodstream, police said.

Allen and Smith have two other young daughters, one with autism and the other with spina bifida.

Currently, Harper said the girls are under the guardianship of Allen’s parents and his client is doing everything that child welfare authorities expect of him in order to regain custody.

He said Allen will also have to complete any classes or therapy deemed necessary while on probation.



# Virtual life for double murder in Michiana Shores

BY STAN MADDUX

A man will likely spend the rest of his life in prison for killing two members of his family in Michiana Shores. Kyle Earley received a 110 year sentence last week in La Porte Superior Court 1 in Michigan City.

A jury found him guilty on two counts of murder.

Last September, Earley fatally stabbed his father, John, 73 and uncle, Denis, 64, inside the family's home.

Evidence shows one of the victims during the attacks was on the phone with his wife. At some point, he dropped the phone and his wife overheard the bloody acts through the open line.

Earley was still on the property with blood and the murder weapon on him

when police began showing up. He also had a cut on his hand and scratches on his face.

Police said Earley was diagnosed with Bipolar disorder and Schizophrenia prior to the killings and previously threatened his father and uncle in the past.

La Porte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan gave credit to everyone who was involved with the case for his conviction and lengthy sentence.

"I have a great staff and because we work well with law enforcement we were able to present a compelling case to a jury. Obviously, we're happy about the result," he said.

Earley could have received as much as a 130 year sentence.

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# Oldest living chicken from Michigan

BY STAN MADDUX

A chicken from Michigan came within a split second of dying inside the egg abandoned by her mother to shatter a record for longevity.

Currently, Peanut is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest living chicken.

She is 21.

In comparison, the previous oldest living chicken on record last year was 12.

Marsi Darwin said she believes a diet that includes traditional feed along with yogurt every morning is one reason why her bantam has lived well beyond the usual five-to-10-year life expectancy for a chicken.

“She wants yogurt every morning and if I don’t her a little bit in a dish I hear about it. She gets very vocal,” she said.

Darwin said her beloved chicken also enjoys certain fruits and vegetables, along with an occasional hard-boiled egg.

When asked if there were any other secrets behind the long life of her chicken, Darwin said “I think just spoiling her rotten.”

Peanut overcame what might be considered a miraculous yet heartbreaking start to becoming, perhaps, a living legend.

Darwin said the record setting bird’s mother left the nest with her other chicks but abandoned the still unhatched egg containing Peanut.

Suspecting the cold to the touch egg might be rotten, Darwin said she was about to throw it into her pond when she thought a noise came from inside the shell.

She held the egg to her ear and “sure enough it chirped,” she said.

Darwin said she gently opened the



egg and inside was Peanut.

She was unable to hatch from not having an egg tooth, a hard, sharp object temporarily on the bills of chicks they use to break out of their shells.

“I guess I hatched her,” she said.

Darwin said she presented Peanut to her mother, hoping nature would take over, but she kept rejecting her.

So, Darwin played mother by

placing Peanut under a heat lamp and teaching her how to eat and drink by dipping her beak into some feed and water.

Darwin said she kept her special bird in the house for two years because she didn’t seem to like being with her other chickens.

Some of the chickens kind of bullied Peanut but, eventually, she and the other birds started getting along.

“I would take her out with me to do my chores and she gradually found a few friends,” she said.

Darwin said Peanut spent the next 15 years or so inside a coop, but always came to her when called like a pet and was friendly.

Peanut is now living back inside the home with her 15-year-old daughter, Millie.

That happened after a cold winter night. The chicken, after following Darwin, jumped on an empty parrot cage inside her enclosed porch.

“I opened the door and she hopped right inside,” she said.

Darwin said her beloved chicken, who sits in her lap, seems to be getting a little stiff in the joints but still moves well.

She hopes Peanut stays around long enough to break the all-time longevity record for chickens.

Muffy, a Red Quill Muffed American Game raised in the U.S., lived for 23 years and 152 days until passing in 2012, according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

“If we can keep her alive for a few more years she’ll beat that record. She’s still pretty good,” Darwin said.

Darwin and her husband, Bill, have about 50 other chickens, along with an equal number of ducks, peacocks and other feathered foul on their no-kill farm in the southeast part of the state.

Recently, Darwin said she went away for the weekend, leaving her husband solely responsible for taking care of Peanut.

Darwin said she was not surprised when Peanut gave her a warm welcome back at the front door.

“She jumped right into my arms when I got home,” she said.





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